

Rector's Circle Le Cercle du recteur



Dear Friend of the University,

As I start my second term as Rector and Vice-Chancellor, we are marking the fifteenth anniversary of Concordia University. It seems a particularly appropriate time for me to outline my goals and priorities for serving the University over the next five years. First, I would like to offer my gratitude to members of the Rector's Circle for their generosity over the past year. This commitment to Concordia, and to higher education, has set a splendid example for others to follow.

Creativity and sound financial management have allowed Concordia University to offer quality education to a unique student body, despite the fact that the University has had to operate under the constraints of limited space and funding over the years. One of the underlying reasons for Concordia's success has been the spirit of solidarity, commitment and generosity which has animated all sectors of the University community. This spirit has been especially pronounced in the Rector's Circle. It is due to support such as this that we have been able to move towards enhancing substantially the University's physical environment. The Vanier Library extension and the new Concert Hall are only the most outstanding examples of this. Such achievements and attitudes bode well for our ability to offer our students an exciting learning environment.

We have a mission as an academic community and a commitment to continue striving for excellence. Allow me to quote from my address to the first joint session of the Senate and Board of Governors which took place this autumn: "Concordia, in my view, is an urban university which is responsive to the bilingual and multicultural environment in which it resides. It is a

community where values of equality, non-discrimination and tolerance of diversity are appreciated and actively promoted. Furthermore, we are committed to responsible and innovative leadership in fulfilling the mission of universities to develop and disseminate knowledge and values and to act as a social critic. We have chosen to achieve this end through inclusive and accessible academic programmes which stress a broad-based, interdisciplinary approach to learning. We are also dedicated to superior teaching supported by the best possible scholarship, creative activity, research and service to society."

The achievement of our academic mission depends on the development and maintenance of sound academic programmes. I am firmly convinced that this can only be done with a university-wide process for evaluating existing academic programmes, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Evaluation of existing programmes must be accompanied by the development of new ones which are both imaginative and of high quality. I can see the development of joint programmes with Canadian and international universities, and joint endeavours with the private sector, as being attractive in promoting cooperative, not competitive educational standards. Such programmes allow us to maintain and develop high calibre education by constantly infusing new academic blood into our University. The quality of education offered at the University is, and must always be, our top priority.

I think that as we examine our internal structures and resources, it is of critical importance that we develop strong and dynamic links with the local community, in order to keep in touch with the aspirations of our society. As they engage in a wide range of social, economic and research activities outside the University, our

professors and students are helping to increase the scope of our participation in the City and to establish the reputation of Concordia as an institution serving its urban constituency. The importance of this aspect of our role was stressed at the Fourth International Urban Universities Conference, hosted by Concordia in late September 1989, as I indicated in my closing remarks to that conference.

There is no doubt that Concordia has shown tremendous dynamism and creativity in serving the community in Montréal, in Québec and beyond. Initiatives with municipal governments offer our researchers new opportunities to assist in the planning and implementation of community projects, while using the full range of Concordia's expertise. We have a great deal to offer Montréal and its urban residents, and this can only enhance our relations with the surrounding community.

The diverse cultural and linguistic environment at this University fosters values which are

appreciated by all members of our academic community. The different endeavours of students, faculty and staff at Concordia have made the University a stimulating centre of innovative approaches to social, educational and economic challenges. I feel that the issues that we are dealing with in our urban context – of intercultural relations, accessibility, openness and exchange – are precisely the issues that are challenging the urban, national and international communities at the present time. In combining high-level training with a diversity of views on society, universities contribute to the economic and social advancement of Canada by instructing people with the expertise and compassion needed to build our society from a balanced, humane perspective.

I know you share this view of our mission, and I am confident we can continue to rely on you in our efforts to attain it.

Patrick Kenniff
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

Hindu Studies Chair



After several years of concerted effort, a Chair in Hindu Studies has been established at Concordia University. Such an event contributes greatly to the atmosphere of multiculturalism present at Concordia and in Montréal. This entire effort is a fine example of the type of cooperation which can benefit our whole society; the city's Indo-Canadian community, the Government of Canada and the University worked closely together in establishing the Hindu Studies Chair. The Indo-Canadian community, under the leadership of Dr. M.N.S. Swamy, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, raised about \$500,000, the Secretary of State and Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Citizenship, the Hon. Gerry Weiner, allocated \$400,000, and the University made an early commitment to provide space and support resources to the Chair. Rector's Circle members Dr. M.N.S. Swamy, Dr. T.S. Sankar, Dr. P.K. Gajalakshmi Nayar and Dr. N.P.V. Nair have made substantial contributions to the establishment of the Chair.

The appointment of Dr. Krishna Sivaraman as the first holder of the Chair has inestimably increased its value. His academic career spans four decades and his reputation as an author and scholar is well known beyond our borders. The establishment of this Chair, the first of its kind in North America, will help contribute to the breadth of ethnic studies at our University. Dr. Sivaraman believes that the new Chair will provide a forum for the cross-cultural interplay of inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue. Not only that, it will help Canadians of all origins to better understand Indian culture and philosophy, which now constitute an essential part of our own societal fabric.

The Chair in Hindu studies is the first of many subsequent endeavours which will augment the already well-established excellence of Concordia's academic programmes.



A New Home for Music

by André Fauteux

Concordia's versatile new concert hall has been delighting concert aficionados, both visually and acoustically, since its official opening in December. According to its designer, architect Robert Magne of the firm Lemoyne, Lapointe, Magne, "it has a certain experimental character to it ... we were trying to respond to the dynamic image of the client [the Faculty of Fine Arts]."

The \$4.2-million hall was financed entirely by the five-year, \$25-million Concordia University Capital Campaign. Part of a \$13-million redevelopment of the Loyola Campus, the concert hall shares a common foyer with the Campus Centre and the Vanier Library.

The intimate 619-seat facility will be used mainly by the Music Department, which stages about 110 (usually free and public) concerts a year. It will also be available for rental to community groups about 100 times a year, responding to a shortage of quality musical facilities in the city. "It's going to be an excellent hall for Concordia and the city of Montreal," boasts the architect.

Designed by Montreal acoustician Serge Melançon, the 10,000 square-foot facility is unique in that it has variable acoustics. Melançon designed rotating motorized panels to modify reverberation times, allowing various types of music (whether jazz, classical or baroque, played

by a soloist or a large ensemble) to be played to their best advantage. One side of the panels consists of oak and plaster (to reflect sound) and the other is insulation and textile (to absorb it). Depending on how panels are flipped over, the sound can take from 1.2 to 1.9 seconds to decay.

Besides ensuring warm and clear highs and lows, the ceiling and walls will also completely eliminate outside noises. No flush, no buzz, no hail, no party will disturb the performances: washrooms are in the main foyer; special ventilation turns at a very slow speed; all mechanical equipment is in the Vanier Library; and the ceiling is suspended below sixteen inches of dead air to prevent rain from spoiling an evening. Silencers, tubes, mufflers, concrete walls and special doors will also make sure lively parties in the Campus Centre go unnoticed.

While the hall will be used mostly for performance, room has been set aside to install a recording studio. Wiring is ready for a sound system and video to enjoy the performance from the foyer. An art gallery has been planned directly off the main lobby.

Magne said building the hall demanded a certain amount of juggling: it had to be large enough to allow longer reverberation, yet city regulations limited it to the height of the Vanier Library. The problem was solved by putting the 1,100 square-foot stage nearly a full floor under-

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Rector's Circle Dinner



The Rector's Circle took the occasion of its second Annual Dinner on February 1st, to celebrate the opening of the new Concert Hall with a performance by the Concordia Chamber Players. Held in the Atrium of the Concert Hall, the dinner was catered by the University's Marriott Food Services. Pictured here in the Concert Hall are the benefactors of the Rector's Circle dinner – from left: Ruth Glenen, Brian Aune, Louis B. Gascon, Mary Jo Gascon, Patrick Kenniff, Hélène Jalbert and Michael Jalbert. Sincere thanks are also given to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bloomberg for their generous sponsorship. (Courtesy The Gazette, 5 February 1990. Nancy Ackerman. The Tommy Schnurmacher Social Notes.)

University Calendar of Events 1989-90

ONGOING EVENTS

Conservatoire d'art cinématographique.

Regular presentations of répertoire films. Open to the general public. All showings in the Hall Building at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. For information and listings call (514) 848-3878.

Visual Arts Building Gallery. Weekly exhibits of undergraduate student works.

1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. For information call (514) 848-4676.

Bourget Building Gallery. Weekly exhibits of graduate student works. 1230 Mountain Street.

For information call Nicole Norvid at (514) 848-4607.

Contemporary Dance: Student Productions. For information call (514) 848-4740.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

March 1-April 7

Concordia Art Gallery - Exhibition

Robert Bourdeau: Photographs

For information call (514) 848-4750.

March 21

Wynton Marsalis

Concordia Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West. For information call (514) 848-4718.

Programme subject to change.

April 11-14

View from the Bridge, by Arthur Miller. A drama production by the Concordia Department of Theatre at the Chameleon Studio, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West. Direction by Stanislav Brejdygant. For information call (514) 848-4747.

April 14

Angela Cheng in recital

Concordia Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West. For information call (514) 848-4718.

Programme subject to change.

April 18-22

Don Juan Comes Back from the War, by Odon Von Horvath. A drama production by the Concordia Department of Theatre at the D.B. Clarke Theatre, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. Direction by Joel Miller. For information call (514) 848-4747.

April 21

Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal

Concordia Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West. For information call (514) 848-4718.

Programme subject to change.

May 24-June 30

Concordia Art Gallery

Elanor Bond: Work Station

For information call (514) 848-4750.

June 7

Convocations (Individual Invitations will be mailed)

10:00 a.m. Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, 2:30 p.m. Faculty of Fine Arts

June 11 – 10:00 a.m. Faculty of Arts and Science

June 12– 7:30 p.m. Faculty of Arts and Science

June 13 – 7:30 p.m. Faculty of Commerce and Administration

September 8

Football

Concordia University Stadium, Loyola Campus. Exhibition Game.

Concordia vs. Waterloo. 1:00 p.m.

September 16

Football

Concordia University Stadium, Loyola Campus. Season opener.

Concordia vs. Queen's. 1:00 p.m.

October 12-13

Homecoming

Concordia's first Annual Homecoming. For information, call the Alumni Office (514) 848-3818

October 18-20

Choosing Peace: An International Symposium

Organized by the Loyola Jesuit Institute for Studies in International Peace

and featuring Dr. Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, as special guest and speaker.

For information call the Institute at (514) 848-7799.

MUSIC, Continued

ground and the public entrance under the seating. That way, people can "get down" and enjoy music in what is far from being a down-to-earth concert hall.

Jane Needles, the manager of the new concert hall, has worked with many of the major theatre companies across Canada, including lengthy stints at Stratford and the National Arts Centre. The concert hall's opening season will include several internationally acclaimed artists such as Anton Kuerti, Angela Cheng, Francis Kay and the Orford String Quartet and Wynton Marsalis.



Rector's Circle Members

J. Brian Aune

David & Stephanie Azrieli

Lawrence & Fran Bloomberg

John G. Bourne

Michael Boxer

William E. Bradford

Robert J. Brodrick

Maurice Cohen

Murray Couture

David Crevier

Gerald Daoussis

Paul J. DesLauriers

Paul Desmarais

John N. Economides

Leonard & Bina Ellen

W. Charles Ellison

Stanley G. French

Louis B. Gascon

P. André Gervais

Peter A. Gordon

Thomas O. Hecht

Andrew Homzy

Peter & Morag Howlett

Christopher D. Hyde

Paul Ivanier

Michael Jalbert

Peter Rowe Johnson

E. Leslie Jowett

Patrick Kenniff

E. Leo Kolber

Theodore & Irene Lande

J. Michael Little

Reford & Natalie MacDougall

W. Earle McLaughlin

Donald W. McNaughton

Michael R. Minkoff, Jr.

N.P.V. Nair

P.K. Gajalakshmi Nayar

Jean H. Picard

Peter Quinlan

Richard & Carolyn Renaud

Miriam Roland

Thiagas S. Sankar

Samuel H. Schechter

Richard & Priscilla Schmeelk

William W. Stinson

M.N.S. Swamy

William I.M. Turner

Ernesto Vitienes

José Vitienes

Gerald J. Wareham

The late Colin W. Webster

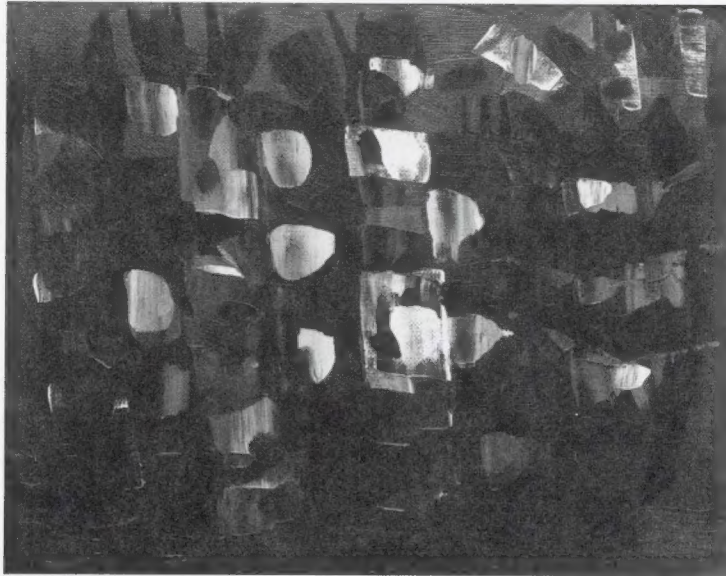
Lorne C. Webster

Jonathan & Susan Wener

William H. Wilson, Jr.

Mrs. Susan Woods

Melvin C. Zwaig



*Paul-Émile Borduas "La Pâques Nouvelle", 1948
Oil on canvas, 31 x 38 cm. Permanent
Collection, Concordia University*

A Good Little Collection

It is important that the University maintain a good art collection. Not only because we have one of the largest Fine Arts faculties in Canada, but also because the University is a repository of ideas," says Sandra Paikowsky, Curator of the Art Gallery and Associate Professor of Art History. She speaks with obvious pride and dedication to what has become an important Montréal collection which was only twenty-five years in the making.

The Concordia Art Collection started in the days of Sir George Williams University before the University had a dedicated Gallery space. The initial idea was the brainchild of Dr. Samuel H. Schecter, who inspired others to follow his initiative in making gifts which laid the foundations for a quality University collection.

Among major Canadian artists whose works are an integral part of the collection are David Milne, Paul-Émile Borduas (see plate), Charles Gagnon, Joyce Wieland, and Michael Snow. Works by current and past members of the Concordia Fine Arts Faculty are also included, such as Guido Molinari, Jean McEwan, Yves Gaucher, John Fox, Françoise Sullivan, Irene Whittome, Katherine Tweedie, Russell Gordon and David Moore, to cite but a few.

"In terms of university collections in Montréal, it has a degree of uniqueness," explains Paikowsky, "because of its focus on contemporary Canadian works. This evolved for obvious reasons; practically speaking, there is no way we could ever get involved in the international market. The collection's strength is in a small but significant compilation of modern and contemporary works on paper including painting, drawing and everything in between," says Paikowsky. This is an area which promises to be a continuing focus for acquisitions in the future. In 1988, a very successful exhibition titled "Contemporary Canadian Works on Paper"

introduced a selection of pieces from the University's permanent collection to the general public. Paikowsky writes in the exhibition's illustrated catalogue that "these works evoke the contemporary art situation in their common tendency towards eclecticism, to fragmentation, to strategies that reflect the flux of contemporary life."

Acquisitions are financed partly through grants from the Canada Council and through financial contributions, while gifts of works of art from private donors also add to the collection. In 1984, the Concordia Art Gallery gained the recognition of art patrons when it was deemed a Canadian Cultural Repository, classifying it as part of our national cultural heritage. The University vets all works which are offered to the collection and more generous tax benefits are now available to donors. Gifts of works of art are evaluated by the Art Advisory Board, which consists of a group of artists, historians, collectors and faculty members. "Unfortunately, when we organize exhibitions, the first question we have to ask is how large are the pieces to be exhibited," says Paikowsky, discussing the new Concordia Art Gallery to be built in the Downtown Library Complex. There is visible excitement about the upcoming move to a new building. "Our new gallery space will be larger. With indispensable higher ceilings, there will be greater flexibility in organizing the space, and additional facilities will enable us to take better care of the works in the permanent collection."

The Gallery organized five exhibitions solely on the work from the permanent collection during the last academic year. Individual selections from the collection are often included in other shows organized by the Gallery, and works are occasionally lent to other museums.

"The permanent collection is a good little collection... the exciting acquisitions we are making continue to enhance the collection," says Paikowsky.

The Rector's Circle Newsletter serves the membership of the Rector's Circle at Concordia University. It is edited bi-annually by Hugh W. Brodie of the Office of the Rector and Carole Kleingrib of the Office of University Advancement, who may be contacted at 514/848-4845 and 848-4856 respectively.

Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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